

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**FOR WRITTEN REPLY**

**QUESTION 2331**

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**INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER: 30/2013**

**Mr A M Mpontshane (IFP) to ask the Minister of Basic Education:**

- (1) What levels of education does her department require school principals to have;
- (2) whether there are any underqualified principals currently in charge of any public school;
- (3) whether there are any plans in place to help ensure that these principals upgrade their qualifications; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details?

NW2785E

**REPLY**

- (1) **What levels of education does her department require school principals to have?**

The minimum qualifications for principals are as follows:

- A recognised three year qualification (REQV13) which must include appropriate training as an educator; and
- Seven (7) years of actual and/or appropriate experience.

However, in practice and depending on the quality of the applicants a specific post, an applicant who is most qualified is likely to be appointed. This would include having obtained higher qualifications, having more years of experience than the required minimum, having served as a part of the school management team either as a head of department or deputy principal.

**(2) Whether there are any underqualified principals currently in charge of any public school?**

According to Persal, as at the end of March 2013, there were 19 under-qualified principals in the system. All of them are in small schools of less than 12 educator posts. Five (5) in schools with three or less educators; and fourteen (14) in schools with 4-12 educators.

**(3) whether there are any plans in place to help ensure that these principals upgrade their qualifications; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details?**

The Advanced Certificate in Education: School Leadership and Management qualification is in place and in process of being upgraded into a Diploma. The under qualified principals will be enrolled into this programme once completed.